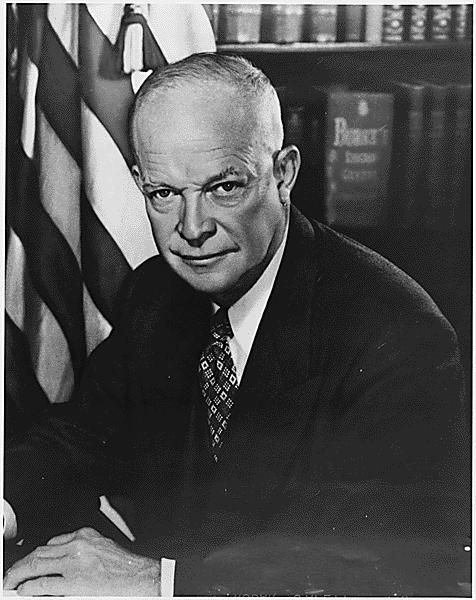
**Cuba and the Cold War**

**CUBA:**

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**Fulgencio Batista Fidel Castro Che Guevara Raul Castro w/Fidel & Che**

**USA:**

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**Dwight Eisenhower John F. Kennedy Robert F. Kennedy Robert McNamara**

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**Dean Rusk Adlai Stevenson Maxwell Taylor Curtis Le May**

**USSR:**

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**Nikita Khrushchev Andrei Gromyko Anatoly Dobrynin**

**BACKGROUND:**

**Spanish-American War (1898):**

* **US defeats Spain, which has colonized Cuba**

**1901-1902:**

* **1901: Platt Amendment—terms for transfer of power to Cuba**
* **granted US considerable influence over Cuba, including freedom of Cuba to negotiate treaties, Cuba’s debt policy, & transfer of land to foreign power except USA**
* **MOST IMPORTANTLY—gave US right to intervene in Cuban affairs**
* **1902: Cuba gains independence from US**

**United States in Cuba:**

* **great amount of influence and some interventions in Cuban affairs**
* **economic influence on Cuba: largest source of investment in Cuba and export market for Cuba**
* **many major US corporations influential in Cuba, including owning Cuban land and operating plants: Standard Oil, ITT, Texaco, Esso, several major US banks, and number of companies relied on Cuban sugar, i.e. Coca-Cola & Hershey’s**
* **American organized crime heavily involved in Cuba**

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**Fulgencio Batista (1901-1973):**

* **leader of Cuba, 1933-1944 & 1952-1959**
* **dictator whose 2nd period of rule incredibly repressive & corrupt**
* **supported by US govt, US business & Mafia**
* **lost American support in 1958 after forced to hold elections where**

**most Cubans refused to vote**

**Fidel Castro (1926- ):**

* **leader of July 26th Movement—goal to overthrow Batista regime**
* **1st attempt 26 July 1953**
* **arrested, convicted, later exiled**
* **returned to Cuba 1956 w/brother, Che & supporters**
* **begins insurgency against Batista**
* **based in Sierra Maestra Mountains**
* **victory on 1 January 1959**
* **probably not Marxist until after came to power**

"I believe that there is no country in the world, including the African regions, including any and all the countries under colonial domination, where economic colonization, humiliation and exploitation were worse than in Cuba, in part owing to my country’s policies during the Batista regime… I can assure you that I have understood the Cubans. I approved the proclamation which Fidel Castro made in the Sierra Maestra, when he justifiably called for justice and especially yearned to rid Cuba of corruption. I will go even further: to some extent it is as though Batista was the incarnation of a number of sins on the part of the United States. Now we shall have to pay for those sins. In the matter of the Batista regime, I am in agreement with the first Cuban revolutionaries.”

—John F. Kennedy interview with Jean Daniel, 24 October 1963

"Our revolution is endangering all American possessions in Latin America. We are telling these countries to make their own revolution."

— [Che Guevara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Che_Guevara), October 1962 interview with Henry Brandon, *The Times*

**Cuba under Fidel:**

* **expropriated private property, little or no compensation**
* **land redistribution**
* **cleaned out mafia**
* **confiscated assets from US corporations & landowners (about $1 billion of a total of $25 billion)**
* **US responded with trade restrictions**
* **Feb. 1960: Soviets open market to Cuban sugar**
* **US fears Cuba would become Soviet ally**
* **Castro continues to nationalize and redistribute land**
* **feared US intervention**
* **Oct. 1960: Eisenhower bans all exports to Cuba**
* **Cuba ↑ relations with USSR**
* **Khrushchev seizing new opportunity—excited by revolution reminiscent of Bolshevik Revolution of 1917**
* **March 1960: CIA begins training Cuban exiles as potential invasion force to topple Castro**
* **1960: Soviets begin supplying advice & weapons to Cuba**
* **March 1960: *Le Coubre* incident—US blamed, ↑ support for Castro in Cuba**
* **Castro continues to confiscate US assets**
* **influence of Raul & Che played a role as well—seek ↑ relations w/USSR**
* **July 1960: Khrushchev declares willingness to defend Cuba—nukes**
* **Sept. 1960: Castro denounced “Yankee Imperialism”**
* **US placed embargo on all trade with Cuba**
* **late 1960: two US diplomats expelled from island**
* **3 Jan. 1961: US withdrew recognition of Cuba, ending diplomatic relations**
* **20 Jan. 1961: John F. Kennedy becomes POTUS**

**Bay of Pigs:**

* **17 April 1961: c. 1,400 Cuban insurgents, supported by CIA, invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs**
* **utter & complete failure**
* **US hoped would lead to internal uprising against Castro**
* **solidified Castro’s popularity even further**
* **huge propaganda victory**
* **drove Castro even further into Soviet arms**

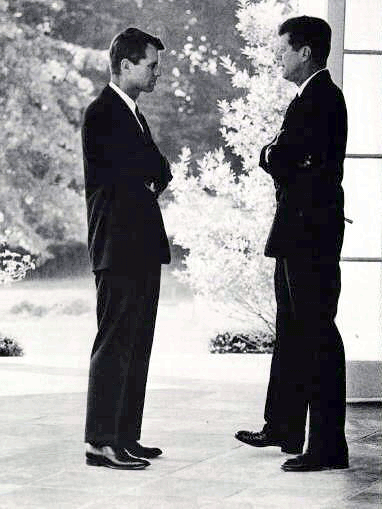
**Kennedy, Flexible Response & Cuba**

* **covert action to topple Castro: Operation Mongoose—sabotage, organize anti-Castro movement, & probably assassination**
* **economic & diplomatic isolation: expanded & continued embargo, maneuvered to expel Cuba from Organization of American States (OAS)**
* **military pressure: ORTSAC—war game designed to overthrow an imaginary dictator**

**Khrushchev & Cuba:**

* **Berlin Wall Crisis heightened tensions both w/USA & some Eastern European allies, especially Ulbricht (GDR)**
* **↑ competition from China for support from developing nations**
* **false reports & alarms about US 1st Strike on USSR**
* **domestic criticisms for cutting defense budget, economic troubles & struggling reforms**
* **Feb. 1961: Kennedy Administration publicly announced that any missile gap that existed actually favored USA not USSR**
* **May 1962: holiday on Black Sea contemplated US missiles in Turkey just beyond the horizon—made connection to Castro’s ↑ requests for more help**
* **decided to deploy strategic missiles to Cuba**
* **probably thought would remain secret until *fait accompli***

**Cuban Missile Crisis:**

* **16-28 Oct. 1962**
* **closest world came to nuclear war between US & USSR**
* **changed the course & tone of the Cold War**

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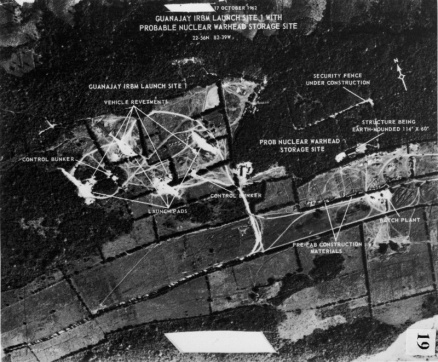
* **Oct. 16: US surveillance shows build up of missile sites in Cuba, including SAM (surface-to-air missiles)**
* **Oct. 16: ExComm (Executive Committee of the National Security Council) convened**

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* **ExComm: ploy by USSR for advantage in Berlin?; awareness & unwillingness to be seen as Appeasers (influence of appeasement in 1938)**
* **ExComm’s possible courses of action: 1) do nothing; 2) use diplomatic pressure to force USSR to remove missiles; 3) air attack on missiles; 4) full-scale military invasion; or, 5) naval blockade of Cuba, termed as a quarantine**
* **US Joint Chiefs, including Maxwell Taylor & Curtis Le May, recommended military action**
* ** Oct. 18: Kennedy meets with Anatoly Dobrynin & Andrei Gromyko, who claim missiles for defensive purposes only, not offensive weapons**
* **Oct. 20: ExComm vote in favor of blockade or quarantine**

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* **Oct. 22: JFK informs the American public**
* “It shall be the policy of this nation to regard any nuclear missile launched from Cuba against any nation in the Western Hemisphere as an attack on the United States, requiring a full retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union.”
* “To halt this offensive buildup, a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated. All ships of any kind bound for Cuba from whatever nation and port will, if found to contain cargoes of offensive weapons, be turned back. This quarantine will be extended, if needed, to other types of cargo and carriers. We are not at this time, however, denying the necessities of life as the Soviets attempted to do in their Berlin blockade of 1948”

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* **Oct. 20: ExComm vote in favor of blockade or quarantine**

